



Trump hammered Democrats on transgender issues. Now the party is at odds on a response

By BILL BARROW and
MARC LEVY

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — After losing the White House and both houses of Congress, Democrats are grappling with how to handle transgender politics and policy following a campaign that featured withering and often misleading GOP attacks on the issue. There is plenty of second-guessing after President-elect Donald Trump anchored his victory over Vice President Kamala Harris with sweeping promises on the economy and immigration. But Democrats also will not soon forget the punchline in anti-transgender Trump ads that became ubiquitous by Election Day: "Kamala is for they/them; President Trump is for you."



Continued on Page 2

Protesters advocating for transgender rights and healthcare stand outside of the Ohio Statehouse, Jan. 24, 2024, in Columbus, Ohio.
Associated Press

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Trump hammered Democrats on transgender issues. Now the party is at odds on a response

Continued from Front

"Week by week when that ad hit and stuck and we didn't respond, I think that was the beginning of the end," former Democratic Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell said of the 30-second spot that was part of \$215 million in anti-transgender advertising by Trump and Republicans, according to tracking firm AdImpact.

"They painted her as something I don't think she is," Rendell said. "They painted her as a far-left liberal."

The fallout leaves some progressive and moderate Democrats struggling between the party's modern identity as a champion of civil rights and its electoral fortunes across swaths of America with whom those attacks resonated.

"There are just a number of issues where we're out of touch," Rep. Seth Moulton, a moderate Massachusetts Democrat said in an interview, days after he set off recriminations within his party for saying he didn't want his daughters playing in sports against biological males. Critics said Moulton echoed Trump's talking points about liberals allowing "men to compete in women's sports." "I think that Republicans have a hateful position on trans issues," Moulton told The Associated Press, but insisted that Democrats still lose voters because of the party's "attitude."

"Rather than talk down to you and tell you what to believe," he argued, Democrats should "listen to hard-working Americans."

LGBTQ+ advocates, meanwhile, are arguing that the 2024 election turned more on economic issues than Trump's transgender rhetoric.



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump stands on stage with former first lady Melania Trump, as Lara Trump watches, at an election night watch party at the Palm Beach Convention Center, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, in West Palm Beach, Fla.

ric. They're urging political leaders to counter misinformation that they say threatens the health and safety of transgender Americans, who make up less than 1% U.S. population.

"Trans people have been existing and co-existing," receiving health care and participating in society for years, said Sarah Kate Ellis, CEO of GLAAD, a leading LGBTQ+ advocacy group. "Nothing new happened," Ellis said, other than Republicans singling them out in a presidential campaign year. "It didn't change one vote," Ellis argued. "But it did make the world way more dangerous for trans people."

Another Democratic Massachusetts lawmaker, Rep. Ayanna Pressley, didn't name Moulton, but said some reactions to the election "scapegoated and dehumanized" transgender people. "This Congresswoman sees you and loves you," Pressley wrote on the social media

platform X.

Certainly it's difficult, if not impossible, to pinpoint single issues that can tip a national election, and there are mixed findings on what voters think about transgender rights.

According to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 120,000 people who cast ballots this fall, more than half of voters said support for transgender rights in government and society has gone too far. About 2 in 10 said support has not gone far enough and another 2 in 10 said it's about right. But among Trump voters, 85% said transgender support had gone too far. Still, slightly more than half of all voters oppose banning gender affirming medical treatment such as hormone therapy and puberty blockers, while slightly less than half support such proposals.

About one-quarter of Harris voters said support for transgender rights in government and society has gone too far.

About 4 in 10 said it's been about right and about 4 in 10 said it hasn't gone far enough.

Trump and Republicans were relentless in trying to capitalize on the issue. They piled on transgender athletes, with Trump falsely labeling two Olympic boxers as transgender women. They used Harris' comments as a presidential candidate in 2019 — before she became vice president — effectively to blame her for laws granting transgender health care to federal prisoners and detainees.

And Trump repeatedly and falsely claimed that "your kid goes to school and comes home a few days later with an operation" changing their sex.

In reality, the Biden administration has held that Title IX bars discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity — but Education Department rules do not explicitly address transgender athletes. Federal law that

Trump ads cited does require people in U.S. government custody to have access to gender-affirming medical treatments. Those policies were in place throughout Trump's 2017-21 term; they are not something Biden's administration instituted specifically.

And it is not legal in any state for a school to determine and carry out surgical treatment for minor students. "You gotta fight back" with those explanations, Moulton said, adding that the silence compounds the negative effects for transgender people. "What did we show about our willingness to stand up for trans people by just being silent and ignoring the issue and ignoring the attack?"

Still, Moulton said Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill and in statehouses should give individual elected officials and voters the space to take more conservative positions, and he defended his own comments that he doesn't want his daughters competing in athletics against men. "I don't want them getting run over on a playing field by a male or formerly male athlete, but as a Democrat I'm supposed to be afraid to say that," Moulton told The New York Times last week. Before he resigned his post as Texas Democratic chairman, Gilberto Hinojosa said supporting transgender rights doesn't necessarily have to include public funding for gender reassignment surgery.

"We can say, 'OK, we respect people's right to say, we don't want my taxpayer money to be used for that,'" Hinojosa told Texas Public Radio. Hinojosa later apologized via social media, saying LGBTQ Americans "deserve to feel seen, valued and safe in our state and our party." □

Associated Press

Suicides in the U.S. military increased in 2023, continuing a long-term trend

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Suicides in the U.S. military increased in 2023, continuing a long-term trend that the Pentagon has struggled to abate, according to a Defense Department report released on Thursday. The increase is a bit of a setback after the deaths dipped slightly the previous year.

The number of suicides and the rate per 100,000 active-duty service members went up, but that the rise was not statistically significant. The number also went up among members of the Reserves, while it decreased a bit for the National Guard. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has declared the issue a priority, and top leaders in the Defense Department and across the services have worked to develop programs both to increase mental health assistance for troops and bolster education on gun safety, locks and storage. Many of the programs, however, have not been fully implemented yet, and the moves fall short of more drastic gun safety measures recommended by an independent commission.



Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin speaks during a joint press briefing with South Korean Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun at the Pentagon on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024 in Washington.

Associated Press

In a statement Thursday, Austin said the new figures “urgently demonstrate the need for the Department to redouble its work in the complex fields of suicide prevention and postvention.” He said the department is moving urgently to put changes in place, adding, “There’s still much more work to do, and we won’t let up.”

The increase was fueled by spikes in the number of

Army and Air Force deaths, while the Marine Corps and Navy saw a very small dip. Overall, there were 523 reported suicides in 2023, compared with 493 in 2022. The number of active-duty troops who died by suicide increased to 363 from 331. Officials have said that due to the decreasing size of the active-duty force in recent years, they believe the rate of suicides, rather than the number, is a more

accurate measure. The suicide rate is calculated based on an active-duty force of about 1.28 million, about 330,000 Reserves and nearly 430,000 in the Guard. The rate for active-duty service members and Reserves went up, while the Guard was lower.

More broadly, however, the trend since 2011 has been an increase in suicides among active-duty service members,

while the Guard and Reserve have stayed largely stable. Officials said the statistics generally reflect suicide rates for society as a whole, when adjusted for age and gender, because a majority of those in the military are young and male.

The analysis in the annual report also shows continuing trends for those who die by suicide and how they do it. The report shows that young, male enlisted troops still make up the vast majority of the suicides, and that the bulk of the deaths involve the use of a firearm.

Suicide data for troops’ family members lags by a year. But it shows that fewer family members died by suicide in 2022 than the previous year, with a 9% decrease in the rate. While there are far fewer male spouses, they make up nearly half of the suicide deaths. An independent committee recommended early last year that the department put in place a series of gun safety measures to reduce suicides in the force, including waiting periods for the purchase of firearms and ammunition by service members on military property. □

Statue of the late US Rep. John Lewis, a civil rights icon, is unveiled in his native Alabama

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)

— A statue of the late U.S. Rep. John Lewis, a civil rights icon, has been unveiled in Alabama’s capital city.

The likeness, called Steadfast Stride Toward Justice, sits in the Equal Justice Initiative’s Legacy Plaza in Montgomery. It joins statues of Rosa Parks, unveiled in February, and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., unveiled in June, AL.com reported.

Atlanta-based sculptor Basil Watson created all three statues, which stand across from the initiative’s Legacy Museum in Montgomery.

“I just think the entire state of Alabama owes John

Lewis so much because he pulled us all out of the darkness of Jim Crow and racial segregation,” said the initiative’s executive director, Bryan Stevenson. “He created the opportunities that we get to celebrate in so many of our public spaces, from football fields to basketball places. It wouldn’t have been possible without his courage.”

In addition to the statues, the plaza features a brick sculpture memorializing civil rights marchers and a mural by local artist Kevin King.

Lewis was a native of Pike County, Alabama, and is known for leading hundreds across the Edmund

Pettus Bridge in Selma on March 7, 1965, a day now known as “Bloody Sunday.” He was elected to the Atlanta City Council in 1981 and to Congress in 1986, where he served 17 terms in the U.S. House from Georgia’s 5th District. He died in 2020 at age 80.

Former President Barack Obama awarded Lewis the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011.

“Generations from now, when parents teach their children what is meant by courage, the story of John Lewis will come to mind — an American who knew that change could not wait for some other person or some other time; whose

life is a lesson in the fierce urgency of now,” the for-

mer president said during the ceremony. □



This image provided by the Equal Justice Initiative, shows a statue of U.S. Rep. John Lewis, a civil rights icon, the was unveiled at the Equal Justice Initiative’s Legacy Plaza, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, in Montgomery, Ala.

Associated Press

Smithfield agrees to pay \$2 million to resolve child labor allegations at Minnesota meat plant

By **STEVE KARNOWSKI and JOSH FUNK** Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Smithfield Foods, one of the nation's largest meat processors, has agreed to pay \$2 million to resolve allegations of child labor violations at a plant in Minnesota, officials announced Thursday.

An investigation by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry found that the Smithfield Packaged Meats subsidiary employed at least 11 children at its plant in St. James ages 14 to 17 from April 2021 through April 2023, the agency said. Three of them began working for the company when they were 14, it said. Smithfield let nine of them work after allowable hours and had all 11 perform potentially dangerous work, the agency alleged.

As part of the settlement, Smithfield also agreed to steps to ensure future compliance with child labor laws. U.S. law prohibits companies from employing people younger than 18 to work in meat processing plants because of haz-



Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack speaks during a press briefing at the White House, Wednesday, July 31, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

ards.

State Labor Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach said the agreement "sends a strong message to employers, including in the meat processing industry, that child labor violations will not be tolerated in Minnesota."

The Smithfield, Virginia-based company said in a statement that it denies

knowingly hiring anyone under age 18 to work at the St. James plant, and that it did not admit liability under the settlement. The company said all 11 passed the federal E-Verify employment eligibility system by using false identification. Smithfield also said it takes a long list of proactive steps to enforce its policy prohib-

iting the employment of minors.

"Smithfield is committed to maintaining a safe workplace and complying with all applicable employment laws and regulations," the company said. "We wholeheartedly agree that individuals under the age of 18 have no place working in meatpacking or processing

facilities."

The state agency said the \$2 million administrative penalty is the largest it has recovered in a child labor enforcement action. It also ranks among the larger recent child labor settlements nationwide. It follows a \$300,000 agreement that Minnesota reached last year with another meat processor, Tony Downs Food Co., after the agency's investigation found it employed children as young as 13 at its plant in Madelia.

Also last year, the U.S. Department of Labor levied over \$1.5 million in civil penalties against one of the country's largest cleaning services for food processing companies, Packers Sanitation Services Inc., after finding it employed more than 100 children in dangerous jobs at 13 meatpacking plants across the country.

After that investigation, the Biden administration urged U.S. meat processors to make sure they aren't illegally hiring children for dangerous jobs. □

South Carolina to take a break from executions for the holidays

By **JEFFREY COLLINS** Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The South Carolina Supreme Court has decided the state should take a break from executions for the holidays.

Justices issued an order on Thursday saying they would wait to sign the next death warrant until at least Jan. 3. South Carolina restarted its death chamber this year after an unintended 13-year break in executions in part because companies refused to sell the state drugs needed for lethal injections if the companies could be identified. A privacy law now hides the names of suppliers and prison officials were able to obtain the drugs.

The one-page ruling offered no reason for the break. The justices could have issued a death war-

rant Nov. 8 for Marion Bowman Jr. that would have been carried out on Dec. 6. Two inmates have already been executed. Four others who are out of appeals and facing a schedule suggested by the Supreme Court of an execution ev-

ery five weeks asked the justices for a break during the holidays.

"Six consecutive executions with virtually no respite will take a substantial toll on all involved, particularly during a time of year that is so important to families,"

the lawyers for the inmates wrote in court papers.

Attorneys for the state responded that prison officials were ready to keep to the original schedule and pointed out that the state has conducted executions around the Christmas and New Year's holidays before, including five between Dec. 4, 1998, and Jan. 8, 1999.

State law requires executions to be carried out on the "fourth Friday after the receipt of such notice," so if the justices do issue a death warrant for Bowman on Jan. 3, his execution would be Jan. 31.

After allowing the death penalty to restart, the Supreme Court promised in August to space out the executions in five week intervals to give prison staff and defense lawyers, who are often representing sev-

eral condemned inmates, time to handle all the legal matters necessary. That includes making sure the lethal injection drugs as well as the electric chair and firing squad are ready as well as researching and filing last-minute appeals.

Bowman, 44, was convicted of murder in the shooting of a friend, Kandee Martin, 21, whose burned body was found in the trunk of her car in Dorchester County in 2001. Bowman has spent more than half his life on death row.

Bowman would be the third inmate executed since September after the state obtained the drug it needed to carry out the death sentence.

Freddie Owens was put to death by lethal injection Sept. 20 and Richard Moore was executed on Nov. 1. □



A protestor looks on prior to the scheduled execution of Richard Moore, Friday, Nov. 1, 2024, outside of Broad River Correctional Institution in Columbia, S.C.

Associated Press

Head of U.N.'s nuclear watchdog visits Iran as Mideast wars and Trump's return raise worries

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

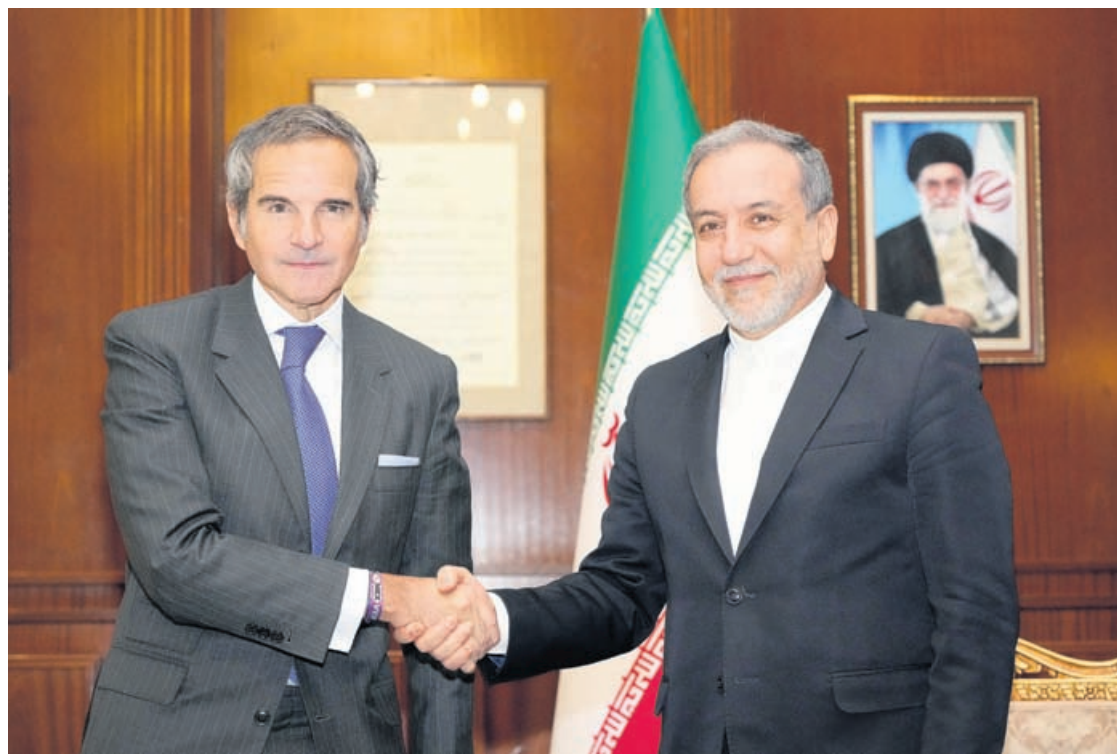
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency warned Thursday that the "space for negotiation and diplomacy ... is getting smaller" over Iran's advancing atomic program as wars in the Mideast rage on and as President Donald Trump will return to the White House.

Rafael Mariano Grossi of the IAEA was visiting Tehran in an effort to restore his inspectors' access to Iran's program and answer still-outstanding questions over it, as he has on previous trips with limited success since Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the Islamic Republic's nuclear deal with world powers.

However, the remarks from both Grossi and his Iranian counterpart at a news conference suggested sizeable gaps still exist, even as some countries are pushing to take action against Iran at an upcoming IAEA Board of Governors' meeting.

"We know that it is indispensable to get, at this point of time, to get some



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, left, shakes hands with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi during their meeting in Tehran, Iran, Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024.

concrete, tangible and visible results that will indicate that this joint work is improving (the) situation, is bringing clarification to things and in a general sense it is moving us away from conflict and ultimately war," Grossi said.

Since the deal's collapse in 2018, Iran has abandoned all limits on its program, and

enriches uranium to up to 60% purity near weapons-grade levels of 90%.

Surveillance cameras installed by the IAEA have been disrupted, while Iran has barred some of the Vienna-based agency's most experienced inspectors. Iranian officials also have increasingly threatened that they could

pursue atomic weapons, something the West and the IAEA has been worried about for years since Tehran abandoned an organized weapons program in 2003.

Speaking at a news conference with Mohammad Eslami of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Grossi stressed that while the IAEA

and Iran continued to negotiate, time was not necessarily on their side.

"The fact that international tensions and regional tensions do exist this shows that the space for negotiation and diplomacy is not getting bigger, it is getting smaller," Grossi said.

Before appearing with Eslami, Grossi met with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who later wrote on the social platform X that "differences can be resolved through cooperation and dialogue." However, he warned Tehran was "NOT ready to negotiate under pressure and intimidation."

Some politicians have even suggested Iran abandon the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, known as the NPT, and pursue the bomb.

Araghchi referred to Iran as "a committed member of NPT," though Eslami in his remarks warned Iran could retaliate if challenged at the upcoming IAEA Board of Governors' meeting. Grossi acknowledged some nations were considering taking action against Iran. □

Associated Press

Airbnb users to play gladiators in Rome's Colosseum, sparking mixed reactions over \$1.5 million deal

By PAOLO SANTALUCIA

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The ancient Roman Colosseum will be the venue of gladiator fights albeit staged for the first time in two millennia under a \$1.5 million sponsorship deal with Airbnb that aims to promote "a more conscious tourism."

But some visitors to the monument Thursday, as well as housing activists, were skeptical about the value of the arrangement, citing ongoing controversies in many cities over the role of short-term rental platforms in fueling overtourism and limiting affordable housing for residents and students. Under the deal announced by Airbnb and the Colosseum on Wednesday, the

sponsorship by the short-term rental giant will cover the renewal of an educational program inside the ancient Roman amphitheater covering the history of the structure and gladiators.

Eight of the platform's users and their plus-ones will be able to participate in faux gladiator fights after the Colosseum's closing time on May 7-8, taking the same underground route used by gladiators in ancient Rome to reach the arena. People can apply for the experience on Nov. 27 at no cost, and the "gladiators" will be chosen by lottery.

The superintendent of the Colosseum Archaeological Park, Alfonsina Russo, told

The Associated Press that the deal is in conjunction with the release of Ridley Scott's new film "Gladiators II," which opened in Italy on Thursday.

Russo characterized the sponsorship arrangement as one of the many such deals to help finance projects at the park.

The Italian fashion brand Tod's, for example, has funded a multimillion renovation of the Roman monument, including a cleaning, replacing the locking system of arches with new gates and redoing the subterranean areas.

Alberto Campailla, the coordinator of the Nonna Roma nonprofit organization that focuses on housing and food for the poor,

called the campaign with Airbnb "a disgrace," and a form of "touristification."

Airbnb and other platforms offering short-term rentals "are literally driving people out of not only the city cen-

ter, but also the outskirts and suburban neighborhoods," Campailla said.

Tourists from other European cities grappling with overtourism also took issue with the deal. □



Tourists walk by the ancient Roman Colosseum as it's reflected in a puddle, in Rome, Sept. 5, 2024.

Associated Press

French weapons system found in Sudan is likely violation of U.N. arms embargo, says Amnesty

BY FATMA KHALED

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Armored vehicles manufactured by the United Arab Emirates and equipped with French defense systems have been captured by the Sudanese army during the civil war in Sudan, Amnesty International says.

The rights group said in a report on Thursday it had identified the UAE-made armored personnel carriers (APCs) in various parts of Sudan, including the Darfur region, where they were used by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in its fight with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF).

It added that the presence of the military vehicles on the battlefield "likely constitutes a violation" of a United Nations arms embargo that prohibits the transfer of weapons to Sudan.

The civil war broke out in April 2023 after simmering tensions between the RSF and the Sudanese army escalated to intense fighting across the North African country, where rampant human rights violations were committed.

More than 20,000 people have been killed in the con-



Sudanese soldiers from the Rapid Support Forces unit secure the area in the East Nile province, Sudan, on June 22, 2019.

flict, according to the U.N., while 11.6 million have been forcibly displaced, including 8.3 million people internally and 3.1 million people who fled to neighboring countries. Sudan's claim that the UAE has been supplying the RSF with weapons that prolonged the 18-month war with the army has been denied by the UAE.

Amnesty's report said it had

identified the presence of several Nimr Ajban APCs on the ground after verifying pictures shared on social media showing the vehicles captured or destroyed by the Sudanese army.

The vehicles were reportedly made in the UAE by Edge Group and equipped with the Galix reactive defense system, which is manufactured in France by Lacroix

Defense and KNDS France, according to the Amnesty report. The Galix system is designed to protect vehicles from approaching threats by releasing projectiles, smoke and decoys, according to Lacroix's website.

"Our research shows that weaponry designed and manufactured in France is in active use on the battlefield in Sudan," said Agnès

Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General. "The Galix System is being deployed by the RSF in this conflict, and any use in Darfur would be a clear breach of the U.N. arms embargo," she said.

"The French government must ensure that Lacroix Defense and KNDS France immediately stop the supply of this system to the UAE."

In response to the Amnesty International report, Lacroix said in an emailed statement to The Associated Press that the company confirms it had supplied the Galix systems for the Emirati Armed Forces for the use of smoke-screening countermeasures.

"These deliveries were made in strict compliance with the export licenses granted to LACROIX and the associated end-user certificates," the statement read.

Meanwhile, responding to the Amnesty report, a spokesperson for the Emirati government said in an emailed statement that the UAE is the "target of a coordinated disinformation campaign aimed at undermining our foreign policy, regional role, and humanitarian efforts." □

Former top official in Chile is arrested on rape charges in a blow to President Boric

By NAYARA BATSKHE

Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) —

A former senior official in



Former Chilean Interior Minister Manuel Monsalve is escorted by Investigative Police agents after he was arrested as part of an investigation into an alleged rape of a female official that led to his resignation, in Santiago, Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024.

Associated Press

Chile's government was arrested Thursday on suspicion of rape, authorities said, in a case that has shocked the South American country and dented domestic support for leftist President Gabriel Boric.

Manuel Monsalve, 59, who until last month served as Chile's deputy interior minister and played a key role in strategizing the country's fight against a rise in organized crime, faces accusations of raping a 32-year-old female staffer in a hotel room after meeting her for dinner in September.

Monsalve has denied committing any crime. He stepped down on Oct. 17 when prosecutors announced they had launched an investigation

into the female official's complaint, touching off public outrage and putting further pressure on Boric, a 38-year-old millennial ex-student protest leader who took office in 2022 promising to create a "feminist government."

For over two and a half years, Monsalve, a doctor and former socialist activist, was at the forefront of the government's campaign against a recent gang-driven crime wave that has rattled Chile, long considered one of Latin America's safest and most stable nations. Police on Thursday arrested Monsalve at his house in the seaside resort of Viña del Mar and transferred him by car to custody in Chile's capital of Santiago,

128 km (80 miles) away. He was led in handcuffs by detectives into the station to give a statement.

President Boric, who testified as a witness in the case last week, responded to the arrest of his former top official with a brief post on social media platform X that did not name Monsalve.

"In Chile, no one is above the law," he wrote.

The rape scandal marks a blow for Boric, whose popularity has declined in the polls and at the ballot box where right-wing parties gained against the president's left-wing coalition in last month's regional elections, regarded as an important bellwether for the 2025 presidential vote. □



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**THE CASINO AT
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Aruba: The island of Aloes

ORANJESTAD – Aloe vera, a succulent plant species, is renowned for its incredible properties for the skin. It is widely distributed and usually grows in tropical, semi-tropical and arid climates on the planet. But this plant also had a very prominent role in the history of Aruba, and its significance to the island's economy endures to this day.

The leaves of Aloe vera contain a good amount of gel which when used topically, is great for the skin. Traditionally, Arubans use this gel to treat minor burns and other skin ailments, or just to keep skin supple and looking bright and nourished. Aside from the gel, aloe contains a bitter, yellow substance (called aloin) which is a gentle but powerful laxa-



tive, and it is also the origin of the industry of aloe in Aruba.

According to the website of Royal Aruba Aloe, Aloe vera was introduced in Aruba around 1840, when most of the island's inhabitants were farmers of little means. Dutch Governor Van Raders introduced the plant after it had been introduced in other islands of the Caribbean to cultivate and harvest the aloe to produce the laxative.

Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes."

Under Commander Jan Helenus Ferguson (1866-1871), aloe experienced a boom, which is why there is a road named after him, which goes through the aloe fields. In the 19th century, Aruba was the main supplier of aloin for laxative, which was imported abroad to the United States and Europe. The aloin from Aruba and Curaçao was known to be one of the best in the world and was more expensive, which meant that at the time, it had significant economic impact, particularly for the local farmers.

However, by the time the oil industry arrived on Aruba, it changed the labor market on Aruba, shifting away from agriculture. It would be after World War II that aloe would make a comeback. And eventually, as science learned about the amazing properties of aloe gel, the industry shifted from producing laxative to producing skin care. An interesting fact is that in 1951, the production of Aruban aloe amounted to around 30 percent of the total global production!



The impact and relevance of aloe is visible all around Aruba. While most homes will have a few plants for personal use and decoration, houses are also decorated with aloe motifs, and at some point, aloe even featured on post stamps. Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes." And in 1955, the aloe became a part of Aruba's coat of arms, symbolizing prosperity for the island.

Images from the archive of the National Library of Aruba.

Visit the island's hidden natural pools

(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two "hidden" natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known "Cura di Turtuga (Turtle's Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or



by foot if you're up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you've completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very

calm. It's also relatively deep, and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there. Because it's still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won't be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will prob-



ably notice the moon-shaped lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you'll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder.

Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours

Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower

in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page

Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.



In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological

Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □



A quick snack for the road: Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast!

Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

Ingredients:

4 cups of wheat flour
1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour, omit baking powder)
1 tsp salt
1 tbsp sugar
0.5 cup of melted butter
1 cup water
1 egg

Directions:

Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point, your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead

your dough into the bowl you are using or on a clean surface with some flour lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.

After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls

and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around ¼ inch or so.

Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any

cheese that melts well when frying the pastry.

Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel free to use it for this process. Your pastechi is ready for the fryer!

If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of one another. This way the pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few. □



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Fusion - Piano & Wine Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Treasure Cove
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Service Anniversaries celebrated at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino

Palm Beach – The Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino honored a truly remarkable group of team members, just recently, in the presence of General Manager Lawrence Tuck, Owners' Representative, businessman Rene Kan, the Minister of Tourism Danguillaume Oduber, members of the executive committee, and members of the HR department.

Glenn Farro, Director of HR, enjoyed the privilege of conducting the official part of the evening. During the event, the resort honored 19 individuals who have shown remarkable commitment and have helped build the foundation of the resort's success, since opening day, in 1959. These honorees stand for a combined 576 years of valuable work experience. "This milestone," said Farro, in his opening remarks, "speaks volumes about dedication, and the kind of passion that makes the team at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino extraordinary."

Among the evening honorees were two remarkable, long-serving team members who have excelled in their roles and inspired generations of colleagues. As they prepare to retire at the ages of 75 and 73 respectively the resort wishes them



much enjoyment, rest from hard work, and an easy transition into the next chapter of their lives after years of uninterrupted service.

The evening was dedicated to the honorees, as each one appeared on stage to accept their certificates, pins and gifts. As they did, their personal stories of growth and achievement were shared.

The evening traced their personal journeys and their career highlights, and achievement, received with loud rounds of applause. The common thread of the evening's stories was the realization that careers built on passion and enthusiasm, are rewarding and long last-

ing.

Honored for twenty-five years of service were Aquilino Gadia, Ronaldo German, Carolyn Santos, Anastacia "Tasha" Agana, Liliana Angela Garcia, Roque Martinez, and Germaine-Geerman Wever.

Honored for thirty years of service were Maria Ureña, Angeline Dijkhoff, Jairo Maduro, Ramon Weindal, and Maikel Ras.

Honored for thirty-five years of service were Hubert Rozenberg, Thelma Franken, Edeltrudis "Betico" Flanegin, Jessica Robert, and Lucretia Minerva Pantophlet. Honored for thirty-eight years of service were Bibi Ohab and Tomas Giel.

Bibi Ohab has been Director of Housekeeping for many years. She was first hired as night senior supervisor in 1986, and has shown strong leadership and organizational skills, which led to her almost immediate promotion as the executive housekeeper, then to her current position as director. Bibi leads a multicultural team ensuring high standards of cleaning and aesthetic appeal throughout the resort. Her commitment to providing exceptional guests' experiences is unmatched.

Tomas Giel has enjoyed a 56-year career in hospitality, the majority

of which was spent at the resort, where he served guests with grace, professionalism, commitment and a dedication to the spirit of Aruban hospitality. Tomas began his journey with the resort in 1986 as a Captain/Waiter and most currently serves as the Assistant F&B Supervisor before embarking on a well-deserved retirement.

In his address, General Manager Lawrence Tuck reported that in his travels as a hotelier around many international properties, he had never met such long-term dedication and the type of passion for hospitality he encountered at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort, where team members deliver consistent high-quality results, build strong relationships and strive to grow.

Just before the award ceremony, the Minister of Tourism Danguillaume Oduber, took to the stage to thank honorees from the bottom of his heart, acknowledging their contributions to tourism and to the economy of Aruba. "Our work is to bring guests to your doorstep, and yours is to make sure they are treated well and love every unique minute they spend on the island, leave some money behind to fuel our economy, and take some memories, along. Thank you for your outstanding product delivery."

The culinary and banquet teams served an excellent three course dinner with a choice of appetizers and main courses. For dessert, event guests appreciated their choice of sweet potato pumpkin pie with crème anglaise or an individual baked Alaska with vanilla and chocolate ice cream topped with toasted marshmallow. The evening concluded with a group and individual picture opportunities. □



Aruba's underwater wonderland

ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.



Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.



Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let

their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken word war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.



Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.



Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □

Ever heard of the cah'i orgel?

A key instrument in Aruban folklore music

(Oranjestad)—The cah'i orgel music box is an important and unique instrument that is used on the ABC islands in the Dutch Caribbean. This instrument is a staple in our folklore music, and its significance in the traditions of Aruba has and continues to bring together the old and young.

The origin of the cah'i orgel is said to have come from Europe around 150 years ago. A cross breed between the barrel piano and the organ, the most popular stories said that the instrument came from either England or Germany, but made its way to Italy down to Venezuela, where in 1881, Mr. Horatio Sprock (1866-1949) from Curacao was first introduced to it. After that, Sprock made his own cah'i orgel "Josefina",

and successfully debuted it on the streets of Barquisimeto. Back in Curacao, he started his own cah'i orgel business along with his brother Luis. In Aruba, it is said that the cah'i orgel was introduced by Rufo Wever, who later in his career became one of the composers for the Aruban national anthem.

Rufo Wever was a young musician in 1937 when he established his own cah'i orgel business on the island. Before that he experimented with his uncle's cah'i orgel, and he over the years he learned to build and repair the instrument. In fact, he was incredibly skilled in this, and he was one of the few to have recognized from the start that the cah'i orgel is an instrument that needs preserving.

As mentioned, the cah'i orgel is a music box. made from mahogany wood, it contains a cylinder with a maximum of eight music pieces. By rotating the lever on the front side of the box, the cah'i orgel produces music similar to that of a piano, and is accompanied often by someone else playing the "wiri", a percussion instrument made out of steel and reminiscent to the Spanish guiro. Back then, you would often also find someone playing the triangle alongside the cah'i orgel and wiri. In Aruba, the cah'i orgel and wiri is used for traditional music genres, such as the Aruban waltz, tumba, mazurka and more.

Fun fact: another name for the cah'i orgel is the "tingilingi box."



Source: "E Cilinder Magico entre Aruba y Curaçao" by Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé, Herta

Parabirsing-Balentina and Nidia Rosaria-Wallé.

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic

5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the

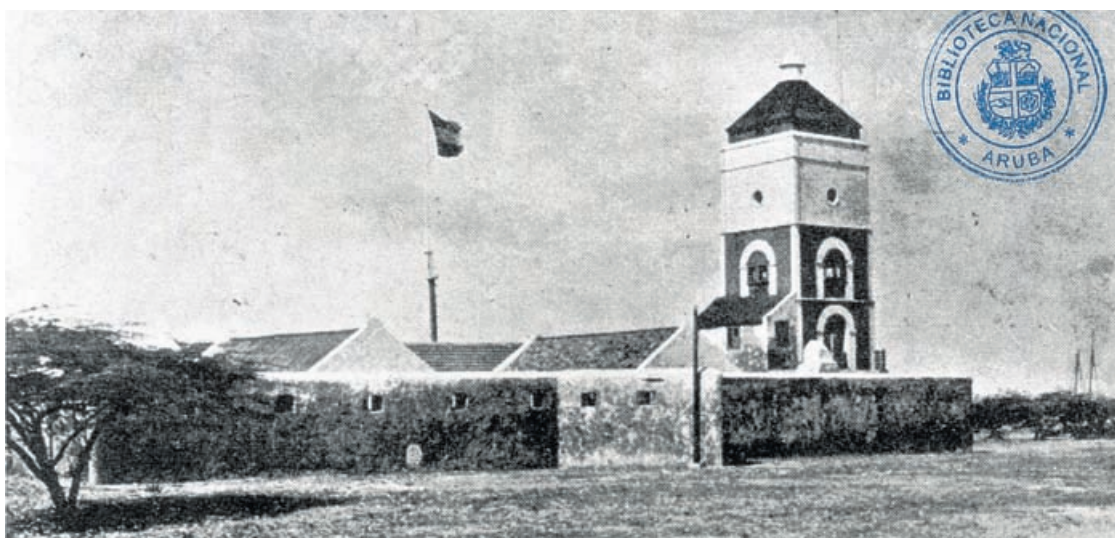


Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of

unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era). Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is. Despite its small size, The

Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary. The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 News item

1 Innocent ones 41 Fresh 42 Takes ten

6 Glider wood

11 Dodge

12 Modify groups

13 Europe's longest river

14 Complete

15 Bays

17 Pitcher's stat

18 Jargon suffix

19 Glues down

22 Toper

23 Mario Puzo book

24 Bird-related

25 Hushed

27 Hosp. sections

30 Army bigwig

31 Fellows

32 Lowly worker

33 Ornate style

35 "House-boat" star

38 Poll goer

39 Kitchen come-on

DOWN

1 Quail

2 Slugger

Pete

3 Printer's dot

4 Keeness

5 Upholstery protector

6 Diamond club

7 Hoopla

8 Hidden

9 Athens rival

10 Heavens supporter

Spain

vote

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Yesterday's answer

16 Discus-

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20 Steak-

house

21 Direction

suffix

24 Hearty

quaff

25 Lady of

Spain

vote

26 Overtures

27 Hams

28 New

29 Derisive

sounds

30 Charity

dos

34 Inlet

36 Print units

37 Opposing

vote

38

39

40

41

42

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-27

CRYPTOQUOTE

SO WYDCD'E J YDJZDP OMC

LD, S'L EHCD SW YJE J

VDJFY JWWJFYDU WM SW.

— QSLLG VHOODWW

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: AIM FOR THE HIGHEST CLOUD SO THAT IF YOU MISS IT, YOU WILL HIT A LOFTY MOUNTAIN. — MAORI PROVERB

Cruise ship Schedule: November 11 - 21 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	11	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL PRIDE	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	12	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CELEBRITY ASCENT	11.30	21.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
WED	13	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	08.00	18.00	B	1
		CELEBRITY REFLECTION	10.30	21.00	C	1
FRI	15	EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
SUN	17	FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E	-
TUE	19	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	21	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

Supermarket hours

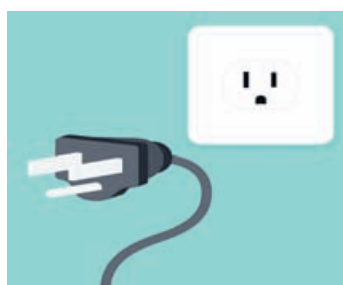


Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier, mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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New Pentagon report on UFOs includes hundreds of new incidents but no evidence of aliens



The Pentagon and the surrounding area is seen in this aerial view in Washington, Jan. 26, 2020. Associated Press

By **DAVID KLEPPER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon's latest report on UFOs has revealed hundreds of new reports of unidentified and unexplained aerial phenomena but no indications suggesting an extraterrestrial origin. The review includes hundreds of cases of misidentified balloons, birds and satellites as well as some that defy easy explanation, such as a near-miss between a commercial airliner and a mysterious object off the coast of New York. While it isn't likely to settle any debates over the existence of alien life, the report reflects heightened public interest in the topic and the government's efforts to provide some answers. Its publication comes a day after House lawmakers called for greater government transparency during a hearing on unidentified anomalous phenomena, or UAPs the government's term for UFOs.

Federal efforts to study and identify UAPs have focused on potential threats to national security or air safety and not their science fiction aspects. Officials at the Pentagon office created in 2022 to track UAPs, known as the All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office, or AARO, have said

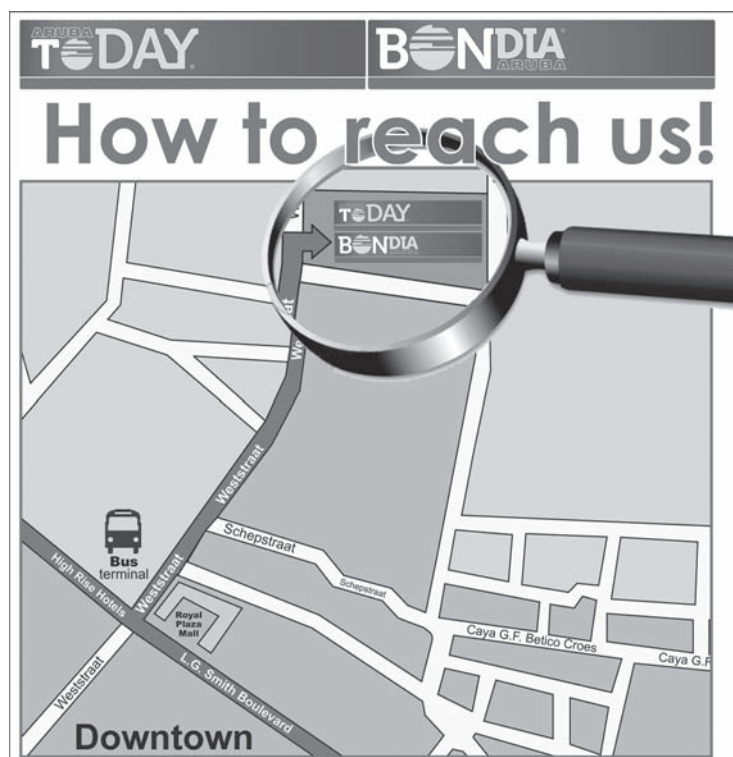
there's no indication any of the cases they looked into have unearthly origins. "It is important to underscore that, to date, AARO has discovered no evidence of extraterrestrial beings, activity, or technology," the authors of the report wrote. The Pentagon's review covered 757 cases from around the world that were reported to U.S. authorities from May 1, 2023, to June 1, 2024. The total includes 272 incidents that occurred before that time period but had not been previously reported. The great majority of the reported incidents oc-

curred in airspace, but 49 occurred at altitudes estimated to be at least 100 kilometers (62 miles), which is considered space. None occurred underwater. Reporting witnesses included commercial and military pilots as well as ground-based observers. Investigators found explanations for nearly 300 of the incidents. In many cases, the unknown objects were found to be balloons, birds, aircraft, drones or satellites. According to the report, Elon Musk's Starlink satellite system is one increasingly common source as people mistake chains of satellites for UFOs.

Hundreds of other cases remain unexplained, though the report's authors stressed that is often because there isn't enough information to draw firm conclusions.

No injuries or crashes were reported in any of the incidents, though a commercial flight crew reported one near miss with a "cylindrical object" while flying over the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of New York. That incident remains under investigation.

In three other cases, military air crews reported being followed or shadowed by unidentified aircraft, though investigators could find no evidence to link the activity to a foreign power. For witnesses who provided visual descriptions, unidentified lights or round, spherical or orb-shaped objects were commonly reported. Other reports included a witness who reported a jellyfish with flashing lights. □



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Kibrahacha: Tel. 583 4908

San Nicolas:

Aloe: Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

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FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional	Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club	Tel. 525 2672

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Mike Tyson concedes the role of villain to young foe in 58-year-old's fight with Jake Paul

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) —

Friendship is at the heart of how a fight came together between 58-year-old former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson and much younger YouTuber-turned-boxer Jake Paul.

Friction helped build the hype for a bout that is testing the formula for how boxing is delivered to the masses, a first-ever combat sports offering from the streaming platform Netflix rather than pay-per-view or traditional cable.

"I think they're beloved fans of Mike Tyson," Paul said, trying to explain the boisterous boos that have greeted him when the two have appeared together in recent months to hype the event.

"And I'm the new kid on the block, the disrupter, loud mouth, polarizing figure," Paul said. "And I've built my career as the heel. Naturally people want to root against me, and that's great for the sport of boxing."

Tyson's first sanctioned professional fight in almost 20 years is set for Friday night at the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys. A crowd of at least 60,000 is expected while Netflix offers the



Mike Tyson, front left, and Jake Paul, front right, face off during a news conference ahead of their fight, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, in Irving, Texas.

Associated Press

bout at no additional cost to more than 280 million subscribers globally.

The 27-year-old Paul is relatively new to the sport, the one-time social media influencer bringing a 10-1 record with seven knockouts mostly against mixed martial artists and journeyman boxers. Tyson was 50-6 with 44 knockouts when he retired after losing to Kevin McBride in 2005, saying he didn't have anything left to give the sport. He last fought in an exhibition

against Roy Jones Jr. with no fans during the pandemic in 2020.

A fight originally scheduled for July 20 was postponed when Tyson had to be treated for a stomach ulcer after falling ill on a flight. Tyson said in a documentary chronicling the preparations for the fight that he lost 26 pounds in the process of recovering.

Promoter Nakisa Bidarian, who co-founded Most Valuable Promotions with Paul, said Tyson was

cleared medically weeks ago. Bidarian sidestepped a question of how concerned he was for Tyson's health once he steps in the ring.

"I'm nervous for both men," Bidarian said. "The reality is Jake's never been hit by someone like Mike Tyson flush on the chin. And Mike hasn't fought someone like Jake for a very long time. That's what makes this interesting."

Paul said he had a vision for the fight about two years

ago and shared it with Tyson because he thought the Hall of Famer would understand and be interested. It took about that long for the bout to come together.

Tyson appeared agitated at both hype events with fans in the Dallas area, first in the weeks before the originally scheduled fight and again at a news conference two nights before the bout.

He was more reflective in a smaller setting with reporters, suggesting he wasn't the same foul-mouthed, scowling fighter from his prime.

"I've been through so many ups and downs since my last fight with Kevin McBride," Tyson said. "I've been in rehab. I've been in prison, been locked up. Never in a million years did I believe I'd be doing this." According to reports, Paul will get \$40 million for the fight, a number he mentioned at another news conference in New York in August.

Tyson, who had two stints in prison over convictions in the 1990s for rape and assault and declared bankruptcy 21 years ago, will get \$20 million. Tyson has said he isn't doing the fight for money. □

Japan rallies to beat Romania and reach quarterfinals of Billie Jean King Cup Finals



Japan's Ena Shibahara returns the ball against Romania's Jaqueline Cristian during the Billie Jean King Cup Finals, at the Martin Carpena Sports Hall, in Malaga, southern Spain, on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024.

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MALAGA, Spain (AP) — Japan reached the quarterfinals of the Billie Jean King Cup Finals for the first time since 2013 after rallying to defeat Romania 2-1 on Thursday.

Japan advanced when Eri Hozumi and Shuko Aoyama defeated Monica Niculescu and Elena Ruse 6-1, 7-5 in the deciding doubles match.

Ana Bogdan had put Romania ahead with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Nao Hibino in the first singles match of the day but Ena Shibahara pulled Japan level with a 6-4, 7-6 (2) victory over Jaqueline Cristian.

Japan will face Italy in the quarterfinals. The United States faced Slovakia later Thursday for a place in the last eight. The first match between Japan and Romania had been moved back two hours because of a severe weather alert that was in effect in the Malaga region until early in the day. The weather alert had already forced the opening meeting between Spain and Poland to be pushed back from Wednesday to Friday, when Germany is also facing Britain.

The Billie Jean King Cup Finals is taking place about two weeks after a powerful

storm caused flash floods that killed more than 200 people in the Valencia region, east of Malaga.

The International Tennis Federation announced a donation to the Spanish Red Cross to support relief and recovery efforts in the region, and Spanish player Paula Badosa said she will donate half of her prize money to help the victims. Both the Billie Jean King Cup Finals and the Davis Cup Finals are taking place in the southern Spanish city, with the men's competition beginning next week, also at the Palacio de Deportes. □

Bryce Young is beginning to show some development as Panthers QB after a rough start to season

By STEVE REED
AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The Carolina Panthers hired Dave Canales as head coach to help develop Bryce Young into a franchise quarterback and turn around a team that hadn't been to the postseason since 2017.

Canales, considered a young, rising star in the NFL coaching ranks, only spent one season as a coordinator and none as a head coach before his arrival in Carolina. But he received acclaim for resurrecting the careers of quarterbacks Geno Smith in Seattle and Baker Mayfield in Tampa Bay.

Through 10 games, there have been mixed results for his latest project.

Young flopped in his first two games in Canales' system, going 0-2 with Carolina losing by a combined margin of 73-13. That resulted in Canales benching the 2023 No. 1 overall pick before Week 3. He had no immediate plans to go back to Young, saying at the time he felt 37-year-old Andy Dalton "gives the team the best chance to



Carolina Panthers quarterback Bryce Young runs against the New York Giants during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024, in Munich, Germany.

Associated Press

win."

Canales has never deviated from that stance.

But when Dalton sprained his right thumb in an automobile accident, he had no choice but to turn back to Young. Since then, the results have been different.

Young has won two straight

starts entering the bye week, albeit against two other struggling teams in New Orleans and the New York Giants.

He has completed 55 of 88 passes for 521 yards with four touchdowns and three interceptions over the last three games, which is measurably

better than his first two starts — 31 of 56 for just 225 yards with three interceptions and no TD passes.

Young has shown better command of the huddle, improved decision-making skills and a newfound confidence.

Canales said Young "made a

statement" after leading the Panthers to a 20-17 overtime win over the Giants in Germany on Sunday.

"I'm just so proud of Bryce," Canales said. "I'm so proud of (him) taking the next step again. He had a great day. It could have been a fantastic day. I thought a few balls got away from us. A couple of times that would have really turned it into really an exceptional day, but he handled the rush, he handled the different coverage looks and all that."

Still, he hasn't publicly committed to Young as the starter for Carolina's next game against the unbeaten Kansas City Chiefs on Nov. 24.

Young, who typically answers questions in age-old clichés and seemingly well-predicted generic answers, predictably deflected talk about his own development.

"We've had a lot of adversity and for me, just the ability to know on offense I have 10 other guys that I know are going to do their job, I know are going to compete that I'm grateful to go to war with," he said. □

Olympic champion Lindsey Vonn is ending her retirement at age 40 to make a skiing comeback

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) — Lindsey Vonn is coming out of retirement to rejoin the U.S. Ski Team, she announced Thursday, intending to race again at age 40 — and six years after her last Olympics. Vonn is a three-time Olympic medalist, including a downhill gold and super-G bronze at the 2010 Vancouver Games, and a bronze in the downhill at the 2018 Pyeongchang Games. She is also a four-time overall World Cup champion and owns eight world championships medals. Her 82 World Cup race victories stood as the record for a woman until that total was eclipsed in January 2023 by American Mikaela Shiffrin, who is still active and is now up to 97 wins — more than any Alpine ski racer in the history of the sport. Before eclipsing Vonn's

total, Shiffrin said: "I don't know if I could fill Lindsey's shoes, the way that she has worn them."

Vonn's last competition came in February 2019, after she dealt with a long series of injuries throughout her career.

There were broken arms and legs, torn knee ligaments, concussions and more.

Just this April, years after leaving the World Cup circuit, she had surgery for a partial knee replacement. Vonn has been training in recent months, U.S. Ski & Snowboard said Thursday.

"Getting back to skiing without pain has been an incredible journey," Vonn said, adding that she wants to "continue to share my knowledge of the sport with these incredible women" on the American roster.

Vonn is back with the team

effective immediately, but it is not yet known which particular races she will be aiming to enter. The first downhill — her specialty — during the current World Cup season will be held at Beaver Creek, Colorado, in December.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard president and CEO Sophie Goldschmidt said Vonn's "dedication and passion towards Alpine skiing is inspiring, and we're excited to have her back on snow and see where she can go from here."

The next Winter Olympics are in Italy in February 2026, and while it's not clear whether Vonn plans to participate, the women's Alpine skiing events will be held in Cortina d'Ampezzo on the course where she holds the record of 12 victories.

Vonn can benefit from the

International Ski and Snowboard Federation's new wild-card rule, which allows former champions to get decent starting numbers for races if they come out of retirement — without hav-

ing to regain ranking points in lower-level races.

Eight-time overall World Cup champion Marcel Hirscher took advantage of the new rule and recently returned after five years away. □



Bronze medalist Lindsey Vonn of the United States hold the Stars and Stripes during the flower ceremony for the Women's super-G at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, Feb. 20, 2010.

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**THE CASINO AT
THE RITZ-CARLTON
ARUBA**

Receive one (1) raffle ticket for every 300 points /\$150 theoretical win or with every \$150 check at Casa Nonna New York, BLT Steak or Divi Lounge.

— NOVEMBER 22, 2024 - 50 FINALISTS —

One (1) lucky winner of \$200,000 Cash or the Luxury Wagon 2024!

**WEEKLY
DRAWINGS**
TILL NOVEMBER 16TH

**GOLDEN KEY
DRAWING**
NOVEMBER 16TH

**TOP PLAYER'S
RACE DRAWING**
NOVEMBER 21ST

— LAST CHANCE DRAWING —

NOVEMBER 22ND
Selecting 8 finalists:
Finalists are chosen throughout the day:
one every hour from 5:00PM to 10:00PM,
one at 10:30PM and one at 11:00PM

**\$200,000 OR
LUXURY WAGON**

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba encourages Responsible Gaming.

The lucky winner will be revealed.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba will select the lucky winner of the MERCEDES-BENZ G-CLASS 2024 on November 22nd!

Palm Beach, Aruba | Since April this year, The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba launched their mega campaign for 2024: The Mercedes-Benz G-Wagon 2024 Giveaway! The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba has been known for its thrilling giveaways like the Ferrari giveaway, Mega Win campaigns with the most attractive cash prizes, exotic vacations and many more. The day is finally near, on November 22nd they will select the lucky winner of the Mercedes-Benz G-Class 2024!

All visitors of The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba still have the opportunity to participate to win this amazing car by being or becoming a member of the VIP Club where they can enjoy unique benefits.

Players can earn raffle tickets till November 22nd at 9:30pm in order to participate.

Players can earn their raffle tickets as follows:

- Every 300 points on slot machines / \$150 of theoretical win on tables = 1 raffle ticket.
- Every check of \$150 at Casa Nonna New York, BLT Steak and Divi Lounge = 1 raffle ticket

There will be 50 finalists competing in the grand finale on November 22nd to be the lucky winner of the Mercedes-Benz G-Class 2024! There are four ways to become a finalist:

- Saturday Drawings till November 16th (with \$12,000 in prizes): selecting 31 finalists

- Golden Key on November 16th: selecting 2 finalists at 11:00pm
- Top Player's Race on November 21st: selecting 9 finalists at 10:00pm
- Last Chance Drawing on November 22nd: selecting 8 finalists from 5:00pm till 10:00pm

This campaign has gathered local and international attention as this is the second time that The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba raffles a high-end luxury car in the Caribbean region and gives their players the opportunity to win this unique car.

The Mercedes-Benz G-Class 2024 makes a striking visual statement for its bold black exterior and lavish red interior. Once inside, you will find all the Mercedes-Benz luxury hallmarks, including red leather comfort seats and Burmester surround system which consists of 15 loudspeakers. You will find everything that you are looking for in a car with this Luxury Wagon: refinement, comfort and performance of a turbo-charged V8 engine. This luxury vehicle offers an unique experience and one player will be the lucky winner on November 22nd.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba is very proud to bring this car to the island as it reflects the luxury and high quality of The Ritz-Carlton brand.